

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.65**

2 (By Delegates Williams, Moyer, Butcher, Campbell, D., Craig,
3 Ferro, Hatfield, Longstreth, Manchin, Manypenny, Marshall, Moore,
4 Pethel, Pino, Poling, D., Stephens, Rowan, Duke, Hamilton,
5 Howell, Sigler, Snuffer and Sumner)

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10 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the
11 state's in-home direct care workforce in an effort to improve
12 the quality and quantity of available in-home direct care
13 workers to ensure a trained and competent workforce exists to
14 care for the state's growing aged population.

15 WHEREAS, Currently 15.8% of West Virginians are age 65 or
16 older and this number will rise to 24.8% by 2030 ; and

17 WHEREAS, In-home direct care workers are often the primary
18 providers of in-home long-term support and services for older West
19 Virginians, who wish to spend their later years in their own homes;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, A large portion of in-home direct care workers are
22 employed through publicly funded programs such as the Medicaid Aged
23 and Disabled Waiver Program, the Lighthouse Program and the Family
24 Alzheimer In-Home Respite (FAIR) program; and

25 WHEREAS, In-home direct care workers provide a range of basic

1 but vital support services including grooming, meal preparation,
2 bathing, housekeeping, laundry and dressing that often allow older
3 West Virginians to remain in their homes as they age and avoid more
4 costly institutional care; and

5 WHEREAS, Due to contributing factors such as job stress, lack
6 of training, low wages and meager benefits, turnover rates for in-
7 home direct care workers are high and costly and affect the overall
8 consistency of support provided to older West Virginians; and

9 WHEREAS, Many in-home direct care workers earn minimum wage
10 and rely on the same federal and state public assistant programs as
11 the individuals for whom they provide care; and

12 WHEREAS, No standard training program exists across West
13 Virginia for in-home direct care workers; and

14 WHEREAS, No mechanism exists in West Virginia to
15 comprehensively track the in-home direct care workforce; and

16 WHEREAS, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, in a
17 2009 publication, urged states to expand data collection on public
18 long-term care programs to include the tracking and monitoring of
19 key direct care services workforce to help inform policy and
20 program development; and

21 WHEREAS, Employers of in-home direct care workers could
22 benefit from being able to consult a database with background
23 information on current and prospective employees to ensure the
24 safety of the vulnerable population they serve; and

25 WHEREAS, In order to ensure the development of a quality,

1 trained in-home direct care workforce, a broad group of
2 stakeholders must come together to study the issues and pursue
3 strategies for improvement; and therefore be it

4 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

5 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
6 requested to conduct a study on the state's in-home direct care
7 workforce; approaches used for in-home care and community care
8 workforce development in surrounding states; Allied health care;
9 potential education pathways, including the development of training
10 programs at vocational schools, community and technical colleges
11 and advanced education and degrees, and explore the creation of a
12 database managed by the Bureau for Senior Services that details
13 qualifications and experience of in-home care workers in an effort
14 to improve the quality and quantity of available in-home direct
15 care workers to ensure a trained and competent workforce exists to
16 care for the state's growing aged population; and, be it

17 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and
18 Finance report to the Legislature, on the first day of the regular
19 session, 2012 on its findings, conclusions and recommendations
20 together with drafts of any legislation to effectuate its
21 recommendations; and, be it

22 *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct this
23 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be
24 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on
25 Government and Finance.